

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IO-12 MC-02 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /137 W

----- 021687

R 092216 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 830

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0851

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI, VS, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REACTION TO ICCS HELICOPTER INCIDENT

REF: SAIGON 5979

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIMIN TRUDEAU AND EXTAFF MIN SHARP APR 8 SAID OCCS HELICOPTER INCIDENT WOULD NOT IN ITSELF CHANGE GOC POLICY ON ICCS PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, IN STATEMENT TO COMMONS APR 9 SHARP SAID SITUATION IN VIETNAM HAS DETERIORATED. SHOULD IT NOT IMPROVE VERY SUBSTANTIALLY HE INDICATED CANADA MIGHT TERMINATE ITS PARTICIPATION AT THE END OF JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LONG STATEMENT TO HOUSE SHARP GAVE FULL DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT WHICH COINCIDED CLOSELY WITH INFORMATION IN REFTEL. HE STRESSED RECALCITRANCE OF PRG AUTHORITIES IN FAILING TO PROVIDE FULL INFORMATION, PERMIT RESCUE FLIGHTS, AND IN INSISTING THAT HELICOPTER WAS OFF COURSE. SHARP DESCRIBED PRG ATTEMPT HAVE ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE SIGN STATEMENT THAT HELICOPTERS WERE OFF COURSE WHICH HE TERMED OUTRAGEOUS. HE REPORTED THAT
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SURVIVING PASSENGERS HAD BEEN REQUIRED SIGN STATEMENT
AND MADE CLEAR THESE STATEMENTS WERE OF NO VALUE.

3. SHARP CALLED THIS INCIDENT " ONLY THE MOST TRAGIC"
OF SEVERAL CASES IN WHICH ICCS AIRCRAFT FIRED UPON.
HE REPORTED THAT ANOTHER HELICOPTER WAS FIRED UPON
YESTERDAY IN SOUTHERN ICCS REGION NEAR VI THANH. ALL
ICCS HELICOPTERS IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN GROUNDED.
SHARP NOTED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THAT HE DID NOT
KNOW EXACTLY THE REGIONS CONCERNED.

4. SHARP SAID INCIDENTS WILL HAVE BEARING ON ULTIMATE
DECISION CONCERNING ICCS PARTICIPATION. IF SITUATION
DOES NOT IMPROVE " VERY SUBSTANTIALY", CANADA WOULD BE
OBSERVING NOT A CEASE- FIRE BUT A WAR. " THIS WE WILL NOT
DO."

5. CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF
TAKING INSUFFICIENT PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFETY GOC PERSONNEL,
BUT DID NOT CALL FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL. NEW DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (NDP) SPOKESMAN ACCUSED CONSERVATIVES OF PLAYING
POLITICS WITH SITUATION, STATING THAT GOC HAD TAKEN ALL
POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS. HOWEVER, FACT THAT INCIDENT
HAD OCCURRED DESPITE PRECAUTIONS REINFORCED NDP ARGUMENT
THAT CANADIAN PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE DEFINITELY TERMINATED
JUNE 30.
SCHMIDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971212
Subject: CANADIAN REACTION TO ICCS HELICOPTER INCIDENT
TAGS: MILI, CA, VS, MILI
To: BUDAPEST
EUR
JAKARTA
JEC PARIS
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
WARSAW

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005